(b) SAIL has planned to finance about 50% of the future investments through internally generated resources.

(c) SAIL has not taken any budgetary support from the Government since 1986-87.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Setting up Iron and Steel Plants

1606. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have identified the places in the country particularly in the State of Punjab to set up iron and steel plants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) Government issued a set of "Guidelines for Entrepreneurs in Iron and Steel Industry" in October, 1992. These Guidelines have indentified 25 possible sites in the country having potential for setting up new iron and steel projects and coke making plants. These include 2 in Andhra Pradesh, 2 in Bihar, 1 in Goa, 3 in Gujarat, 2 in Karnataka, 3 in Maharashtra, 6 in Madhya Pradesh, 3 in Orissa, 1 in Uttar Pradesh and 2 in West Bengal. No specific location has been identified in the State of Punjab. However, it has been stated in the Guidelines that steel plants (EAF-Rolling Mill) can be set up in any location close to a port, or a sponge iron plant or near a potential market depending on the availability of scrap, sponge iron, electricity & market. It has also been emphasised in the Guidelines that the list of possible sites is only an indicative list.

Shortage of Steel Products in Sail

1607. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether shortage of steel products have been noticed in the accounting of Steel Authority of India Limited although balance Sheets were prepared duting the past three years without accounting for the steel shortage;

(b) whether the Chartered Accountants have also pinpointed the defaults; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No, Sir. No shortages beyond allowable limits have been noticed in the accounts of SAIL.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Newspaper Report on IISCO Scam

1608. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item captioned "IISCO scam, steel worth Rs. 88 lakhs missing" which appeared in "The Hindustan Times" dated the 29th November, 1994; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Governments reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No such news item appeared in "The Hindustan Times" on 29th November, 1994 though there was such an item in "The Stateman" dated 29th November, 1994.

(b) The news item has made a reference to the alleged missing saleable steel stocks in IISCO having regard to the figures under Schedule 6 & 7 of IISCO's annual accounts for 1993-94.

The annual accounts of IISCO are prepared in accordance with the Schedule VI of the Companies Act, 1956 as amended from time to time.

The difference in figures of saleable steel stocks mentioned in the news item is apparently based on arithmetical calculation of the figures indicated under Schdeule-6 (Production) and Schedule-7 (Opening Stock, Sales and Closing Stock) of IISCO's accounts for 1993-94. However, for reconciliation purposes, steel quantities which have not

been sold but utilised for other purposes viz. Internal consumption, Inter-works transfers, etc., have to be duly considered, as these do not get reflected in the required details of Schedule-VI of the Companies Act. Once these are added to the figures indicated in schedules 6 and 7 the difference will get reconciled. A suitable disclosure note thereof appears in Schedule-7 of IISCO's Accounts. This system of maintenance of accounts has been continuing in IISCO since 1973-74 i.e. after the management of the company was taken over by the Government of India. As there is no discrepancy in the stocks, the question of missing steel does not arise.

Metal Scrap Trading Corporation (MSTC)

1609. SHRI JIBON ROY :
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Metal Scrap Trading Corporation (MSTC) has planned to venture into ship breaking activities;

(b) if so, what are the guidelines for choosing the site for ship-breaking yard ;

(c) whether Government of West Bengal has consistently been requesting MSTC to set up such a unit in the State in view of the fact that re-rolling units in West Bengal are facing acute shortage of scrap, if so, whether MSTC in considering establishing such unit in West Bengal; and

(d) whether any action is being contemplated by the Central Government to utilise the above assets for the revival of this company; if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) MSTC proposes to participate in a joint venture project for shipbreaking at an appropriate site.

(b) M/s. Engineers India Limited (EIL), a public sector enterprise, were engaged as consultants to prepare a location-cum-prefeasibility study. The following factors have been identified for evaluating various sites for shipbreaking ;

(i) Available draft
(ii) Water frontage
(iii) Back-up space
(iv) Soil & Tidal conditions
(v) Gradient
(vi) Infrastructural facilities in and around the site
(vii) Weather conditions
(viii) Hydrographic maps
(ix) Nearness to market, etc.

(c) The Director of Industries, West Bengal, has reprortedly been holding discussions with various interested parties including MSTC for development of a suitable site for shipbreaking in the State. MSTC has reported that it is open to participation in a joint venture project in the State provided a suitable site is available and long-term viability of the project is established.

(d) The re-rolling units situated in West Bengal are free to import rerollable scrap MSTC, which is a profit-making company, has reportedly also offered its services for import of such scrap on a commercial basis.

Implementation of Official Languages

1610. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that section 3(3) of the Official Language Act 1963 is being fully implemented with regard to estimates agreements notice inviting tenders etc. in the subordinate offices of the C.P.W.D.;

(b) if not, wherher it is due to non-creation/non-filling-up proper Hindi posts; and

(c) what action is being taken for implementation of the Section 3(3) of the Act ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) As reported by DG (W), CPWD, Section 3(3) of the Official Language Act is being complied with bilingual in relation to contract forms, except Schedule of Quantities annexed with some agreement, which is in English.

(b) No, sir.

(c) For effective implementation of various provisions of Official Language Acts, 13 more posts of Junior Hindi Translator (Totalling 70) have been created and filled up recently.